

Fitchburg State College's student newspaper

## Lower drinking age on tap?

BY SHANNI LAAKSONEN  
AND MATTHEW MADRIGAL

Should the legal drinking age be lowered to 18? That's the question on campuses across the country – and, strange as it may sound, it has gained the support of more than 100 college presidents.

These presidents – some from the country's best-known educa-

tional institutions, including Duke University, Dartmouth College and Tufts University – want to resurrect debate about the legal drinking age.

"This is a law that is routinely evaded," said former Middlebury College President John M. McCardell Jr.

"It is a law that the people at whom it is directed believe is

unjust and unfair and discriminatory." McCardell circulated a petition calling for "an informed and dispassionate public debate over the effects of the 21-year-old drinking age" because, he believes, the current drinking age contributes to binge drinking on college campuses.

He argues that the current law forces college freshmen to hide

their drinking, and forces students to drink off campus.

At Fitchburg State College, President Robert V. Antonucci said, "I was invited to sign the petition, and I declined."

Antonucci acknowledged that binge drinking does exist on college campuses, but says, "lowering the drinking age is not the answer. This does not

even begin to address the problem that would carry down to high schools. Informing students to drink responsibly has to be our main objective."

That objective can better be achieved through education, Antonucci said. "I have been pleased with the effort of Fitchburg State College in cooperation with other

Continued on Page 2

## Soccer: It's a kick!

BY KAITLYN FITCH

Between the lights shining on the field and the bleachers full of people, one may wonder, how do they deal with the pressure?

How can they not let their nerves get in the way of playing the game they love?

Maybe it's that same love of the game that allows them to block out the rest of the world and just play.

Whatever their strategy, the Lady Falcons have played well, winning

four of their first five games of the season.

Fans can see the team in action on Sept. 27, when they play a 6 p.m. game at Elliot Field.

The game, against Salem State College, is part of the Family Weekend celebration held each year at

Fitchburg State College.

"I am confident that our team will do well in these next upcoming games," said Lauren Wundt, one of the team captains.

"We have some tough competition ahead but we have really started to set as a team and feel comfortable facing any team in our conference."

Wundt, a junior, is hoping to beat the school's record of most goals this season.

Many fans have told her, "You have to set the new record at home," and that has sounded good to her, too.

"I believe that we will have yet another successful season here at Fitchburg State College," Wundt said. "We have a lot of talent on the team."



FSC FILE PHOTO

Fans don't sit quietly when Fitchburg State College teams take the field as part of Family Weekend.

## 3 cheers for Family Weekend

BY CAIT HEALEY

A magical time awaits students Sept. 26 and 27, as Fitchburg State College presents its annual Family Weekend with the fairytale theme "Once Upon a Time." Events kick off with a parade and fireworks display at Coolidge Park on Sept. 26, followed on Sept. 27 by a football game, a soccer game, and the Family Fun Fair and Autumn Buffet. The weekend's festivities come to a close on Saturday night with performances in Weston Auditorium by Dale K's "Seriously Funny Hypnosis Show" and the main attraction, magician Mike Super.

The parade on Friday night starts off at 7 p.m. in the parking lot of Weston Auditorium and continues its route on the streets surrounding the college, showcasing floats made by college clubs and organizations, as well as guests from FSC administration and city officials.

"Being in the parade last year was a blast! I got to throw candy out to all of the little kids, and I felt it was something good to give back to the community," said Fitchburg Activities Board member Tyler Welsh.

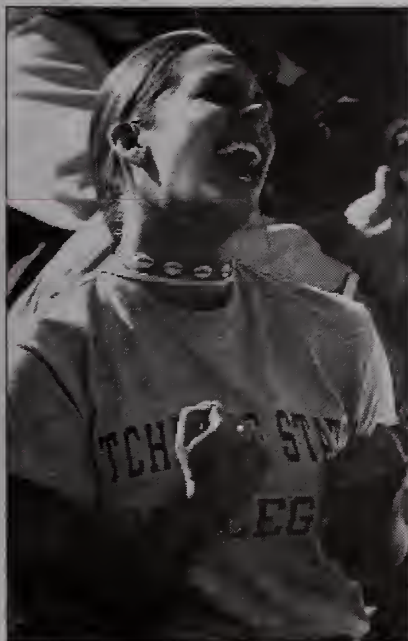
"Plus, FAB won best float, and that was a great thing to be a part of."

After winding through its route, the parade spills into the Civic Center Parking lot and Coolidge Park, where students, their families and community members can enjoy the 8 p.m. fireworks display, followed by an 8:30 p.m. showing of the movie "Enchanted" on a drive-in movie screen.

Saturday will offer an array of activities for the college community. In addition to the traditional athletic events, the Family Weekend committee has organized a Family Fun Fair for the students and their families from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Elliot Field.

"The Fun Fair is a chance for clubs and organization to fund-raise by sponsoring a booth or activity," said Student Government Association member Edye Levin. "This year, we will be having tethered hot-air balloon rides, a dunk tank and carnival games and food." Guests can participate in these activities for a fee of \$1 to \$3.

Continued on Page 2



FSC FILE PHOTO

The laughter is loud and the mood is light when students catch that team spirit during Family Weekend.



# Short on funds? Just work it out

BY MATTHEW GORDON

With soaring gas prices and the rising costs of living, college students are finding their pockets emptier than ever. There is some relief available, though, through programs such as the Federal Work Study.

A federal program administered by the financial-aid department, Federal Work Study finds on-campus jobs for students who qualify.

"Students earn a paycheck every other week that they can then use for gas money, or to go out a grab a pizza with friends," said Alcira P. Zadroga, associate director of the office of financial aid at Fitchburg State College. "Programs such as these are also a great way for students to become more involved on campus."

To take part in this program, new students who apply for financial aid are required to attend a tax paperwork session the day before classes start. Here they hand in their paperwork and get any help filling it out that they might need.

On the first day of classes, a job fair is held in the lounge of the Hammond Building. Booths are set up by the different departments to show the jobs available.

"Not all students are able to attend the job fair, for those students there is a listing of departments on our website," Zadroga said. There are jobs still available now, but students must go to Financial Aid and complete their paperwork before applying.

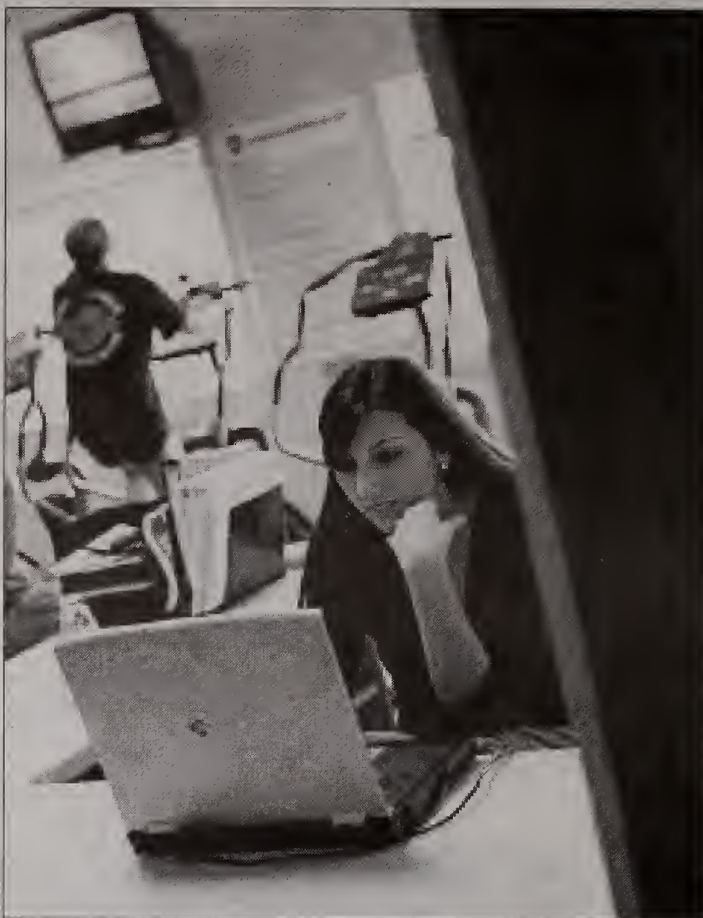
After students locate a job they are interested in, it is up to them to contact that department.

There are many departments with jobs available for students, including the athletics department, Campus Living, the communications department, maintenance, and the Mathematics Center.

FSC students are informed of the Federal Work Study program through mailings sent out during the summer; information can also be found on the FSC website, under financial aid.

"An option for students that do not qualify for FWS, but are still looking for a job on campus, are Trust Fund jobs," Zadroga said. These jobs are part of the Trust Fund Employment program.

Working on campus can have the added benefit of giving students a chance to gain experience in their own field of study, Zadroga said, and there is no need to worry about scheduling conflicts.



FSC FILE PHOTO

*Federal Work Study students help keep the Recreation Center, and its patrons, running along smoothly.*

"Supervisors are asked to work around the student's class schedules," Zadroga noted.

The program also allows plenty of time for studying.

"When school is in session students are not allowed to work more than 20 hours a week; typically, they only work eight to 10 hours," Zadroga said.

When school is not in session, student have the option of working up to 40 hours a week.

Zadroga said the typical pay for a student is \$8 per hour. Students who qualify for community-service jobs such as tutoring, or paraprofessional jobs that require more skill, may earn a little more money, typically \$9 per hour.

# Debate's brewing over drinking age

Continued from Page 1

area colleges, like Holy Cross, in educational programs to council students against the dangers of alcohol abuse," he said.

University of Miami President Donna Shalala, who was Secretary of Health and Human Services under U.S. President Clinton, also refused to sign the petition.

"I remember college campuses when we had 18-year-old drinking ages, and I honestly believe we have made some progress," Shalala told the Associated Press. "To just shift it back down to the high schools makes no sense at all."

But some students say that the current law doesn't make sense, either.

"People are sent off to war at 18, but yet they can't legally drink," points out Megan Leger, a 21-year-old senior at FSC. "Plus, I think it would help to avoid binge drinking."

FSC freshman Michael Mielniczek, 18, agreed. "In many other countries in Europe the drinking age is 18 or even younger," he said. "I think that by having students wait until 21 years old to legally drink, you are creating a rebellion in them."

However, Mothers Against Drunk Driving does not share that view. It says lowering the drink-



PHOTO BY JACK KEENE

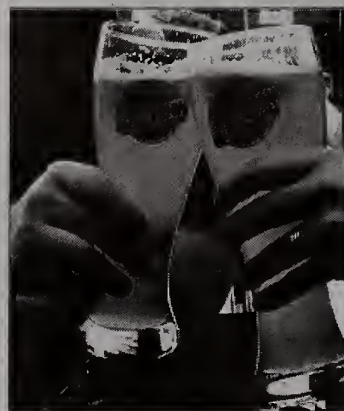
*Would a lower drinking age point students in the wrong direction?*

ing age would lead to more fatal car crashes. College presidents who want to lower the drinking age, MADD has said, are just attempting to "wash their hands clean" of the problem of alcohol abuse on campus. Other students,

like 20-year-old junior Katie Valente, express a different view. They are asking why the debate on someone drinking legally has to be stuck on either 21 or 18.

Valente asks: Why not make the drinking age 20? "You are a

*Should  
18-year-olds  
be permitted  
to raise a  
glass to  
their college  
presidents?*



few years out of high school and mature enough," Valente says.

"If I can serve drinks legally at an establishment, why can't I drink?" With 100 presidents supporting the petition and plenty of opposition to the law change, few would expect this debate to be tapped and empty anytime soon.

# Magical events planned

Continued from Page 1

On Saturday night, Family Weekend comes to a close with a magic-themed show in Weston Auditorium.

"Mike Super and Dale K will put on a phenomenal show," said Katie Fillion, vice president of the Fitchburg Activities Board. "Hypnotists and magicians are something that people of all ages can enjoy."

During his show, Super will show off the comedic and magical skills that made him winner of NBC's 2007 illusion show, "Phenomenon." Tickets cost \$7 for students with OneCard; \$10 for faculty, staff and alumni; and \$15 for the general public and all tickets at the door. For tickets or more information, call the Student Development Office at 978-665-3163.

Members of the Family Weekend committee (comprised of representatives from the Student Development Office, the Fitchburg Activities Board and Student Government) are very excited about what they have planned.

Shane Franzen, associate director of student development, summed up his excitement for the weekend: "You won't believe what we have in store!"

# Add fuel to FIRE

College students from around the country are invited to submit their work for the first annual Freedom on Campus student video contest. Sponsored by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, the contest offers a chance to win a \$5,000 scholarship and other prizes for producing a short video about school policies or practices that stifle freedoms on campus.

In addition to the \$5,000 scholarship, the winner will receive an all-expenses-paid invitation to the 2009 Campus Freedom Network Conference in Philadelphia. Two runners-up will each receive a \$1,000 award.

The competition is open to all undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a U.S. college or university, and the video entry must be under 10 minutes in length. The deadline to enter is Nov. 15, and the winners will be announced on Dec. 5. To read the contest rules, visit FIRE's contest page at [thefire.org](http://thefire.org).



# Cash in on freelance options

BY KEVIN LANGELIER

Every college student has been there, bumming a few bucks off friends and searching the common-room couch for change, looking for just enough cash to buy those much-needed boxes of mac n' cheese.

Let's face it, college may be tough in the classroom, but it's even tougher on the wallet. However, there are some creative ways to ease the financial crunch.

With the help of online markets like Craigslist, freelance work offers an easy way to pick up some extra cash during the year. FSC communications professor Jeff Warmouth has been freelancing for about six years, and he recommends such work to students.

But why start a freelance job search with Craigslist?

"It makes it easier to find freelance work," Warmouth said. "It's a grassroots site that anybody can use - one whose beauty is in its simplicity, sort of a classifieds equivalent of YouTube."

There is also beauty in the way Craigslist can overcome geographical boundaries.

A very large portion of the work available on Craigslist is open to telecommuting, so you can digitally go wherever the work hot spots are.

Here in Fitchburg there may not be much work available, but that doesn't matter: Tack up a poster of a southern California beach, sit down at your computer, and bam, you're working with your latest L.A. clients.

"Makes you wonder if Craig had any idea his list would get this big," Warmouth quipped.

The process of finding freelance work on Craigslist is simple: Scroll through all the listings, pick out the jobs you feel you are qualified for, and send out e-mails of interest. Typically it's best to send e-mails



Jeff Warmouth, a faculty member in FSC's communications department, finds freelance jobs on Craigslist and advises students to do the same.

FSC FILE PHOTO

to as many jobs as you can. Clients who post on Craigslist more often than not receive dozens of responses, and the odds that they'll select you improve with every e-mail you send out.

It's a numbers game. Reply to a lot of jobs, and be patient. Even if you feel you are a little underqualified, let the client be

the judge. Be honest about your experience, but you may be surprised by their willingness to accept students. Many companies will in fact post college-level jobs they'd rather pay a student to do than hire a professional who can demand a greater paycheck. It saves them money, puts some cash in your pocket, plus gives you more

experience. Everybody wins.

"The more work you do, the more confident you get," Warmouth said. "It provides real-world experience that the classroom can't, and looks strong on a resume."

On all fronts, freelancing is a great way to spend some of your spare time while earning some extra cash and skills.



Internet travelers can stumble upon a world of new ideas, opinions and information, all without moving from the comfy chair.

FSC FILE PHOTO

## StumbleUpon a world of new sights, sounds

BY AMANDA ROY

"Where did you find this website?" asks a friend.

"I stumbled upon it one day," you reply.

Now, an innovative website makes the saying literal. StumbleUpon.com has become a phenomenon on the Internet. A member-created database filled with random, obscure and entertaining websites, this free service counts over 5 million subscribers.

Each member can download a free StumbleUpon toolbar for their Internet browser so that, as the site explains, "members are taken directly to websites matching their personal interests and preferences."

The websites are endless, and Stumblers can find it hard to tear themselves away from the new information, images, videos clips, ideas and concepts.

"It's the source of my greatest strength and strongest downfall, if that makes any sense," said FSC student Andrew Finley, a die-hard Stumbler who claimed to spend about 10 hours per week hitting

*"I think it's almost as addictive as many drugs."*

- Candice Leach

the Stumble button.

To become a Stumbler, one simply creates an account on StumbleUpon.com. Each member can choose from hundreds of topics they are interested in, ranging from food to drugs, fashion to engineering, humor to world topics. The topics are even as specific as postmodernism, triphop/down-tempo, futurism, mutual funds and glaucoma.

Once this step is complete, members are ready to stumble.

"My favorite topics are physics and food pages, [and] the pictures of kittens just seem to brighten my day," Finley said.

Just clicking the Stumble button on the StumbleUpon toolbar can offer hours of entertainment.

"I think it's almost as addictive as many drugs," said student Can-

dice Leach, who says she spends at least a half an hour online each time she begins stumbling.

According to StumbleUpon.com, the websites for each topic are chosen and voted on by members who share similar interests. Each Stumbler is able to vote "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" for a website that they stumble upon with the toolbar, and the websites with the most "thumbs up" are sent to other Stumblers with similar interests.

"I rarely hit the thumbs-down" but I do thumbs-up quite a bit, Leach said.

StumbleUpon fans see it as a one-of-a-kind website that makes the most of the Internet's potential to educate, inspire and entertain web-surfers all over the world.

"I have learned more from the physics and science pages that StumbleUpon has brought up for me than any science class I've ever been in," Finley said.

A final word of caution: Just be sure to get all of your work done before hitting StumbleUpon.



# Disability Services: very accommodating

BY KRISTINE LANDRY

Are you a new student at Fitchburg State College? Do you have trouble keeping up in classes, or have you been diagnosed with a learning disability or a physical handicap?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you don't have to struggle alone.

Practical help, emotional support and encouragement can all be found on the third floor of the Hammond Building, in the Disability Services office.

"Disability Services has helped me a great deal," said one student.

"I've been able to get the testing accommodations that I need, and I can talk to [Disability Services staff members] about anything in general if I need to.

"It is a safe haven for me."

According to Julie Maki, coordinator of the adaptive computer lab and testing center, Disability Services has been a part of Fitchburg State College since 1988.

To take advantage of the services it can offer, students must start by providing medical documentation of their learning disability or physical handicap to someone in the Disability Services office.

The next step is to meet with Maki or with Francine Menendez-Aponte, staff interpreter; they will be able to make accommodations ranging from a sign-language interpreter for a deaf student, to Braille text for someone who is blind.

In addition to serving those with physical disabilities, the office is also there for students with learning disabilities including



FSC FILE PHOTO

*Julie Maki strives to help students have a positive experience with Disability Services.*

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Dyslexia, Audio Processing Disorder, and

Visual Processing Disorder.

"People with a learning disability can

*"We have adopted a motto that sums up our mission at Fitchburg State College: opportunity, empowerment, persistence, success."*

- Julie Maki

get accommodations such as taking a test in a less distractive environment, having a note-taker in class, or even having a textbook put on an audio CD," Menendez-Aponte said.

"They can also have the use of a computer in class and extra time on assignments when needed, but that is only when their diagnosis requires this."

Some students do not want their disability announced to other people in the college, and that is not a problem.

All the information that Disability Services receives is confidential; only the staff members who will be working with those students have access to their files.

Disability Services at Fitchburg State College has many opportunities for the students who are willing to check it out.

As Maki explained, "We have adopted a motto that sums up our mission at Fitchburg State College: opportunity, empowerment, persistence, success."

## Professionalism? They'll pour it on!

BY GREG GINGOLD

They appear to work alone, but are actually part of a secret society.

Using codes, passwords and fake names, they gain citizens' confidence. Then, through their covert actions, they pocket hundreds of dollars of the citizens' money each night.

In conversation, people have one name for them: They're called bartenders.

Compared to other subcultures in our society, bartenders may not seem to share a close bond – people see them interacting with customers, and not with one another.

But according to Gregg Lewis, owner of Allstar Bartender's Training, "If you're working a pub in your town, you know all the other pubs around and you know all the other bartenders around."

Bartenders connect with other bartenders. They network to acquire gigs at profitable clubs and parties, to discover what establishments to avoid, and to share strategies for increasing tips.

What does a bartender look like? You may envision a clean-cut man clad in black and white, with a bowtie and a charming smile.

This look may be required of him by his boss, but it is created by the bartender

himself. Not only does a bartender supply his own clothes and whimsical attitude, but he even brings his own drink mixer and bottle opener.

The bartender is always prepared and confident, so that when he is about to get a tip, both he and the customer know how much he earned.

"I have four ways to give respect to a customer, to make or not make him come back to my bar," Lewis said.

"If the guy gave me \$2, I smile and give him a point in his direction.

"If it's a \$5, I put out my fist and have them pound it and tell them I'll see them soon.

"If they give me a \$10, I put out my hand and tell them it was a pleasure having them.

"If I get a \$20, I put out one hand and cup it with my other hand and tell them how generous and kind they are and that the next time they come back, they can have a beer on me."

According to Lewis, a friendly smile can earn a bartender more than five times the cost of the customer's drink.

The customer likes to see a friendly face, so he is drawn to the bartender who lets him know that he is "his" bartender



PHOTO BY LEE COURSEY

*A polished appearance lets patrons know that a bartender takes pride in his work.*

and any combination of drink he could ever want is his.

The bartender is at his customers' service, and it's in his best interest to make the customers happy.

For example, Lewis explains, a single guy might come to a club to meet a woman. A woman might enjoy being treated to a free drink.

Therefore, the bartender introduces the single guy to the woman at the bar, and voila! They are both happy, and they are happy with the bartender.

A good bartender can easily make \$600

in one night – especially if he is smart.

For example, many party-goers know they'll need tickets to get into popular clubs, because the clubs can't allow a crowd above their maximum legal capacity.

Well, some bartenders know that they can ask to sell these tickets at a profit of about \$5 each.

A bartender who sells 60 tickets will start the night with \$300 in his pocket.

He'll have also made the club owner happy, resulting in greater business being sent his way.





FSC FILE PHOTO

Holmes Dining Commons is the place to go for lunch at FSC.

## Students get taste of Freedom

BY MATTHEW TOMASETTI

For the first time in over seven years, Chartwells has unveiled some major changes to its meal-plan options, according to Phil Bowers, director of dining services at the Holmes Dining Commons.

The newest change is what Chartwells is calling the Freedom Plan, consisting of unlimited visits to the Holmes Dining Commons as well as \$125 Falcon Dollars and 10 guest meals per semester.

This is all offered for \$1,350.

"Overall, I am satisfied with the Freedom Meal Plan. However, the one downfall is the lack of guest meals," says sophomore Eric Gregoire. "It is quite a dramatic shift from last year's plan."

This is no surprise to many who have grown used to the 19-meal plan from previous years, which included 48 guest passes per semester.

According to Bowers, many other insti-

tutions have very similar plans with fewer guest passes, while their prices are almost twice as much as the Freedom Plan.

"If students are getting 10 or so passes a semester, I don't think they should be complaining," says John Andersen, a student from a private Massachusetts institution.

"At my school we get only three guest passes a semester. When my friends visit, we usually have to go out to eat because they can't come to our dining hall."

So why did the school have such an extraordinary number of guest passes to begin with?

Bowers speculates that it may be due to a simple clerical error made in earlier years.

"It's possible that someone just entered the information incorrectly. Instead of three [meals] per semester, they entered three per week," states Bowers.

But even with the abnormal abundance

of guest meals, few students were using several passes per week.

After carefully considering suggestions made by students, changes were made to improve the meal plans.

"We try to be aggressive and try to look at the needs of the students and accommodate where we can," says Bowers.

"Our options were to either compromise or charge the students more. We decided to compromise."

"You can do anything you want to the meal plan. The sky is the limit, but there is an associated cost that comes with that," continues Bowers.

"We provide a value while trying to keep the cost to the students low."

Bowers goes on, "What is the cost of benefit? Yes, you lost the guest meals, but look at what you got in return."

## Filmmakers pitch new ideas

BY THOMAS CHALIFOUR

Ever wonder how students decide which films they make? The same way a Hollywood studio does – with pitch meetings.

Held every semester by professor Michael "Zak" Lee during the last full week of classes, two separate meetings grant students taking the Advanced Film and Advanced Video courses the opportunity to pitch their scripts in hopes that it is selected to be made.

After each student or group has presented their ideas, the class votes and two movies are usually decided on.

"It's a nerve-racking experience, for sure," says Matt Maguire, a junior whose script "Bygones" was shot during the spring semester. "You feel like a kid in a spelling bee."

Maguire presented the reasons he thought his script was the best project to



FSC FILE PHOTO

Each year, film students get ready to make their pitch.

spend a semester working and paying for. His was one of four pitches presented at the end of the fall semester, and one of the two that were picked.

Sixteen students are enrolled in each semester's Advanced Film class, the capstone class in the film-production track of the communications-media degree program.

Students taking the class have already been through about three years of electives and introductory film classes.

"You have to convince 15 other people why they should want to spend a couple thousand dollars shooting your story," says Maguire.

"Some people go up with a clear plan of attack: preplanned budgets, locations already scouted, some even already have finished casting. You have to be prepared."

Advanced Film projects typically cost \$1,000 to \$4,000, with the budget split among the six to eight classmates/crew members.

The amount of extracurricular effort demanded by the class, and the quality of the story, also factors heavily with some students.

"You have to tell yourself, 'I am going to be living with this project for the next six or more months of my life,'" explains senior Susan Furgason. "'I better like it.'"

Three different movies were pitched at the spring film meeting, and two were chosen: "On the Corner of 51<sup>st</sup> and Hope," a 1920s period piece set backstage during the closing act of a controversial play's opening night; and "Parking Lots," a look into a day in the life of a record executive.

Now that their projects are decided, it's full steam ahead for the students and the mighty task ahead of them.

"It's a spectacle every semester," Maguire warns. "Those poor kids have no idea what they're getting themselves into."

## Careful what you wish for

BY SHANNI LAAKSONEN

So, here it is, time to be back in school. Exhausting, isn't it?

Did you here about the proposal to lower the legal drinking age to 18? What do you think, are you for or against it?

(Like I really have to ask!)

Way back when I was 18, I would have thought it was a dream come true! You see, you can get married when you are 18, can serve our country, you can vote, but not drink?

The proposal seems to stem from the thinking that most (probably all, if we're honest) colleges experience binge drinking, which leads to a host of problems.

If you've spent any amount of time here, undoubtedly you have noticed someone with some form of intoxication. Sometimes these experiences are funny, sometimes they are tragic.

The assumption is that if the drinking age gets lowered, these incidents of bingeing will be fewer in total – right?

Beats me.

Not to sound ignorant, but wouldn't a drinking age of 18 just mean that

### Binge Thinking

15-, 16-, and 17-year-olds would start behaving like the college 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds are now?

That would mean the college wouldn't have to be policing underage drinking, and that parents at home would have to deal with another aspect of teenage angst – you know, the whole "just out of reach" thing.

I was 18 once, too – back when the legal drinking age was still 18. I went away to college and drank way too much. I ended up flunking out of school the second semester of my freshman year. Booze and freedom took major control of my life. I wasn't the intelligent, reasonable person that I had been before getting out there on my own. I was full of apprehension (read: fear), and booze helped alleviate all those feelings that I was scared of. I drank a lot.

That's not to say that all 18-year-olds will do that. My memories are that they all did, but that was probably the 18-year-olds that I was hanging around with! Maybe you're different. (I hope you are.)

Now, in my second chance around here, I am seeing a different sort of student. I am a bit older, to be sure, but the 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds that I have encountered here seem to have it together way more than I did.

But I haven't partied in a basement for a few years, either.

Just be careful and respectful out there. Let the debate rage on.



# FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE

## Family Weekend 2008

### September 26 and 27

#### Friday, Sept. 26

##### Family Weekend Parade

Line-up, lower Weston parking lot at 6:15 p.m.



##### This Year's Theme: Once Upon a Time

The parade features bands, floats and antique cars. Students, faculty, staff and families are encouraged to participate. Parade Route: Starting on North Street in front of Weston Auditorium, taking rights on Ross Street, Highland Avenue, and Pearl Street, then all the way up North Street, ending at the Civic Center parking lot and Coolidge Park in time for the fireworks.

##### Annual Fireworks Display

Coolidge Park

Join the festivities

immediately following the parade as we continue the weekend with a fireworks display set to music!

##### "Enchanted" Drive-In Movie 8:30 p.m.

Outside of the Laundry Ice Rink

After the fireworks, relax on a blanket with the large screen drive-in movie showing of Disney's "Enchanted."

#### Saturday, Sept. 27

##### Tailgate Lunch 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Elliot Field (rain location is Holmes Dining Commons)

Parents, students and guests: Free with ticket



##### FSC Football

vs. Framingham State College 1:30 p.m.

Elliot Field

Students and Family: Free with One Card and ticket

General Public: \$5

##### Fun Fair

11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Elliot Field

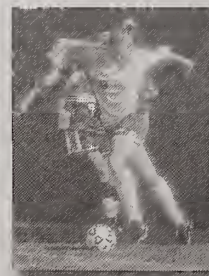
Student clubs and organizations will be hosting a variety of fundraising booths with giveaways and activities like picture mugs, spin art Frisbees, pony rides, balloon animals, food and more.

##### Autumn Buffet

5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Holmes Dining Commons

Parents, families and guests are invited to join Fitchburg State's faculty and staff for music, entertainment and dinner. Admission is \$8.50 per person (free for students on the meal plan). Pay by check with registration form or pay by cash or check at the door.



##### Women's Soccer

vs. Salem State College

Elliot Field

Parents, students and guests: Free

7 p.m.

#### The Magic of Mike Super

8 p.m.

Weston Auditorium

Tickets:	Fitchburg State students with One Card	\$7
	Family, faculty/staff and alumni	\$10
	General public and all tickets at the door	\$15

##### The Magic of Mike Super

Mike Super's Magic & Illusion Production is the industry's one stop for absolute entertainment! The moment Mike appears on stage, the audience is captivated. Mike takes the venue and transforms it into a gateway for your imagination, thus

creating a totally interactive magic experience.

The audience literally takes part in the show first hand!

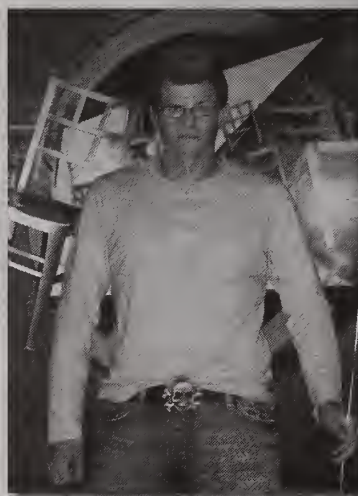


Mike will make an audience member levitate 4 and a half feet off the ground with absolutely no connections of any kind. He will control the elements and make it snow from his bare hands. Mike will physically fold a spectator so small they fit into a Japanese show box! He breathes life into a piece of paper and it actually dances in a total stranger's hands—and that's only 10 minutes into the show!

Mike Super has created a show that becomes one highly anticipated event guaranteed to bring the audience to their feet! Imagine how great you'll look by not only bringing in a show with universal appeal, but a show that features digital music, side-splitting comedy, amazing lighting, and unbelievable magic and illusion—all totally immersed in audience participation!

##### Opening Act:

##### Dale K: Seriously Funny Hypnosis Show



When you attend one of Dale K's performances, there's anticipation in the air before the curtain even opens. After an informative explanation of what you are about to see, Dale K fills the stage with willing volunteers from the audience. Using simple relaxation techniques, Dale K eliminates any and all stage fright that the volunteers may have. In fact, they become so relaxed that they appear to be in a completely deep sleep.

Although their eyes are shut and bodies relaxed the volunteers are wide awake with open imaginations. It's

at this point that Dale K introduces the "power of suggestion" in an always humorous and unconventional manner. His suggestions allow the volunteers to unleash hidden confidence and talents that propel them into the spotlight for the entire show.



# College puts safety first

BY SCOTT MACDONALD

New and wider sidewalks, larger parking lots, increased police patrols: These are just some of the new measures to enhance safety at FSC.

Much of the new road and parking-lot construction is based on the idea of improving safety on campus for residents, commuters, and local residents.

There are also improvements being made in the Campus Police station. Three new officers were hired for the campus-area patrol shifts, enabling them to keep a bicycle patrol officer on for all available bicycle shifts.

"When we hired these three new guys, we implemented them for each shift," said Lt. Michael Marcil of FSC Campus Police. "We created a bicycle patrol specific to each shift."

Marcil, with 22 years of experience, is the most experienced officer at the Campus Police station.

"The face, the complexion of the school has changed since I've been here," said Marcil, noting the wider new sidewalks around campus.

According to Marcil, plans were once considered for installing a traffic light at the intersection of Pearl and North streets, but instead the decision was made to "fix the islands, fix the sidewalk, and fix the intersection, to make it safer."

Community safety is gets a major boost from the bicycle patrols, according to Officer Chris Bouchard, a bicycle officer.

"Biking is a lot better for community policing" since bicycle patrols have better access to areas such as parks and pathways, Bouchard said.

Bikes can travel places where cars cannot, such as the Quad. On the recent move-in day for resi-

dent students, bicycles provided the officers greater ease of movement as they traveled through the crowds and confusion around the residence halls that day.

There are drawback to the bicycle patrols, including the smaller amount of equipment they can carry, the smaller patrols, and vulnerability to the weather.

But the big plus for bicycle patrols is their more personal nature, Marcil said.

"It breaks the barrier down," Marcil said, adding that the bicycle uniform — a blue sweat-resistant shirt — may be less intimidating.

The weather also becomes a concern regarding parking on campus, which is now a volatile subject among area drivers because of the new contract work. "[In] years past, from the first inch of snowfall to March 30, nobody could park on the street," Marcil said.

Now, residents are notified of the standard 48-hour snow-removal programs in and around campus by local public television and newspapers, as well as by email if they have chosen.

Students are notified of the schedules via campus email and local access television programming.

These more flexible parking regulations are a precursor to the other changes brought with the expansion of FSC.

As for overall security on campus, the additional foot patrols, the motorcycle patrol, cruiser patrols and the new bicycle patrols are all part of a commitment to introduce more safety to the campus.

"Increased amount of calls, we will increase patrols of those areas. It's good policing," Marcil said. This community-oriented, safety-minded approach was described by Officer David Nedeau as "pro-active instead of reactive."



FSC FILE PHOTO

Whether they're playing, listening, or just talking about it, students say music plays a prominent role in college life.

## Why not all band together?

BY TONY MARCIELLO

Here at Fitchburg State College, music is important. Take a second and think about how many students you see daily doing things like listening to their iPods, checking out new music online, or even just talking about music with a friend.

The number is probably pretty impressive, and why shouldn't it be? Fitchburg State, is, after all, a college that excels in fields such as education, film, marketing, and all kinds of other communication studies in which music plays a huge role.

This being said, don't you think it's time that a little more attention was paid to some of the great things going on in your very own FSC music department? Newly appointed Humanities Chair Susan Wadsworth sure does.

"We have an excellent music program," said Wadsworth. "But we could definitely use some help. I would

love to see more students getting involved in our concert band, jazz band, and our string ensemble, as well as our chorus and chamber choir."

Dr. Jane Fiske of the music department agrees. "Our faculty is always happy to work with students interested in music," Fiske said. "We have four rehearsal rooms, each equipped with a piano, that all students are welcome to use whenever the Conlon Fine Arts building is open. It would be great if more students got actively involved in our department."

But what if you don't want to play piano or take singing lessons? Maybe you're more interested in learning to play the guitar or clarinet, and you're seeking simpler lessons as opposed to playing in a full concert band.

Our music department might have something for you yet.

"One of my ideas for our

music department has been to recruit private instructors to teach small sessions," said Wadsworth. "If we had enough students interested, a credited brass, woodwind, or guitar class could be a definite possibility for the future."

Moving even further out of the box, Wadsworth suggested that contemporary student bands could play just as much of a role on campus as our other musical groups.

"It would be really great if we could incorporate more different types of music into our program," said Wadsworth.

"I think that inviting more contemporary bands run by students to perform on campus would be a great improvement to our school's musical atmosphere. I encourage all students interested to either seek me out, our new professor Dr. Paul Beaudoin, or contact our Student Activities office for more details."

## Recreation Center makes a risky move



PHOTO BY GLUTNIX

The art of war is explored with the board game Risk.

BY JOHN OCHILTREE

Imagine a world at war. Imagine countries shaking at the might of opposing armies.

Imagine fields littered with corpses, soaked with the blood of men whose minds were once pure and idealistic.

Smoke fills the nostrils. Cannonballs cut through people like a hot knife through butter. The sound of swords clashing and people screaming is all anyone can hear.

In one night a nation may fall and be claimed by another the next. There is no peace in this world.

This is the world of Risk.

Risk is one of the many games that have been added to Fitchburg State College's new Intramural League.

The programming directors at

the Recreation Center on campus have added Risk and other board games, such as Clue, to get more people involved with the Rec Center.

"I added these games to Intramural League for the people that usually wouldn't come to the Rec Center, and maybe they'll start coming to other activities that we provide," says Drew Guay, intramural and recreational programming director.

Upon hearing that there would be a tournament for Risk, at least one student seemed overjoyed.

"I enjoy Risk," says Ryan Silve. "It's a game with a strategic nature that appeals to me."

In preparation for the upcoming Risk tournament, Silve says has been rereading Sun Tzu's "The Art of War."

"My plan during the tourna-

ment is to conquer a continent early and defend it as best as I can," Silve says.

"From there, I slowly move my pieces out on the board, taking countries as I go along."

He's confident that he will win the tournament and get his name on the Falcon Cup.

Silve will have the chance to validate his claims of victory by competing in the Risk tournament on Feb. 5 and 6, 2009; the deadline to sign up is Jan. 28, 2009.

Those who can't wait to test their board-game skills can sign up for the Trivial Pursuit tournament, with registration starting Oct. 21.

In the meantime, a variety of events are ongoing at the Rec Center; students are invited to stop by and check out the schedule.



# How cool is Strong Bad's game?

BY KEVIN CHAPLE

He has boxing gloves for hands and wears a wrestling mask on his head. He's sarcastic and mean. He's ... shirtless. Now he has his own video game to boost his ego further (as if that was needed).

Strong Bad's Cool Game for Attractive People is a five-episode series of games based upon the popular characters of the Homestar Runner universe of Flash cartoons and minigames at [www.homestarrunner.com](http://www.homestarrunner.com). Telltale Games released the first episode, Homestar Ruiner, for the Wii and PC on Aug. 11 with each additional episode planned for monthly release thereafter.

SBCG4AP is your standard point-and-click adventure a la LucasArts' mid-'90s classic, "Sam & Max Hit the Road." You play the game as Strong Bad, pointing at objects on the screen for him to interact with.

The adventure begins when Strong Bad checks his e-mail and finds a message from a fan asking why he doesn't just kick the

snot out of Homestar. Strong Bad agrees (although he'd prefer to kick the "stuffing, tar, or into-next-week" out of him rather than snot) and tells you where Homestar can be found. When you interact with characters you are given options on what you'd like to say. Sometimes you are given options of being naughty or nice in how you deal with each character. As Strong Bad puts it in the tutorial, you can either say something nice or something he would say.

Usually, however, there's a pretty linear script you have to follow where you are only given options based on the running plotline, such as searching for the manual to the game-within-the-game, Snake Boxer 5.

The Wii version of the game will not be available in stores; instead, the episodes will be available in the Wii Shop Channel on WiiWare for 1,000 points, which equals \$10.

So is SBCG4AP worth the download?

Besides the price, the game takes up around 300 blocks of space on the Wii hard drive. Hard-drive space is the biggest problem plaguing the Wii right now. If you've already downloaded a number of WiiWare or Virtual Console titles, making space for new WiiWare games can be a tremendous annoyance. Even though the Wii has a port for memory cards, allowing you to backup save files or channels, the copying process takes a few minutes even for smaller games.

Fortunately, you are also allowed to just re-download any previous purchases from the Wii Shop Channel if you'd prefer to do it that way. Either way, however, is time-consuming.

Another problem with the game itself is a slight feeling that you're working for the laughs. Sometimes merely pointing to where you want Strong Bad to walk can feel somewhat clunky and boring.

Replay value is relatively low, too. While there are unlockables and hidden

objects to be found, there isn't anything too impressive. On the Wii, you find various outfits Strong Bad can wear in a photo booth within the game. Using the same laptop where Strong Bad checks his e-mail, you can send pictures you take within the game to your Wii friends. It's nothing too exciting, though.

That being said, whatever level gamer you may be, any hardcore Strong Bad fan will surely find this worthwhile. If you're able to sit and watch hours of Strong Bad e-mails, you would most likely have fun here. The ability to make your own Teen Girl Squad comics and have Strong Bad rate them is worth the price alone.

The mini-game Snake Boxer 5 is just like any of the Atari-style games on Homestar Runner. There is also a PC version of SBCG4AP available for download at a slightly lower \$8.95. For more information, as well as a free demo of the PC version, visit [www.telltalegames.com](http://www.telltalegames.com).

## Horoscopes

BY MISS GUIDED

- What does the future hold for you? Maybe what's below, maybe not.
- Aries:** You will get trampled by a pink and sparkly pony named Bob.
- Taurus:** That new-age diet you're on - it's only tacking pounds on you.
- Gemini:** Your soul twin will steal your face and assume your identity.
- Cancer:** Eat your veggies unless you want rabid monkeys clinging to you.
- Leo:** You will be mobbed and tickled by a traveling group of Ewoks.
- Virgo:** You know that fan fiction writer you've been reading for the past two years? They're not updating because they left the fandom.
- Libra:** Enjoy your soda now; it won't be as good for you when you wake up.
- Scorpio:** You will be terribly injured and become famous in the process
- Sagittarius:** You'll drown in a vat of honey and molasses. Enjoy your sweet and sticky end.
- Capricorn:** Upon waking up from your "study party," don't assume you were alone all night.
- Aquarius:** Beware of the water on your upcoming beach trip. There's something lurking in the waves, and it's not a puppy or a dolphin.
- Pisces:** Remember that site a friend linked you to last month? The government's been watching you ever since.

## Sudoku

(Answers in the next issue)

			4	3			9	
						6	2	3
					2			8
		1			4	9		5
8			6		1			7
7		4	2			1		
4			5					
2	1	7						
	5			4	6			

## ACE & DUKE BY: JAMES CLAYTON

